

**AGENDA ITEM # 11c**  
February 11, 2005

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Support for Federal Funding to Implement Delta Levees Program in  
HR 2828 (CALFED Bill)

Recommendation: Discuss and possibly direct staff to send a letter of support for Corps funding for the Delta levees program within HR 2828.

**BACKGROUND:**

HR 2828, recently passed by Congress authorizes a number of actions and programs by federal agencies to carry out the CALFED program. Included in the bill is authorization for the Corps to develop and implement a Delta levee improvement program over a five year period. The first action would be preparation of a plan, or strategy, of how and where to spend a total of \$90 million authorized in the bill. The Corps would then implement this plan/strategy over a five year period.

HR 2828 did *not* include funding, and the Corps' Delta levee program was not included in the follow-up omnibus spending bill. The purpose of the following draft letter would be to express support for inclusion of the \$one million in the federal FY 05-06 (which starts October 1, 2005) and the remainder of the funds to be authorized in subsequent fiscal years. The first one million would be used for planning and development of plans and contracts. The remaining funds would be spent over the following four years to implement the levee plan.

**AGRICULTURE AND LEVEES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Agriculture and Levees Committee reviewed this matter at its meeting of February 24, 2005 and recommended the Commission support funding for the Delta levees program as authorized with HR 2828.

Enclosure: Draft Letter

Date

Subject: Support for Funding to Implement Delta Levee Component of HR 2828

Dear:

The Delta community is grateful for the support of Congress and the President as exhibited in the passage and signature of HR 2828, the California Water Security and Environmental Enhancement Bill. The bill includes authorization for many key actions and programs that will move the CALFED program forward to the benefit of all Californians.

Section (f)(3) Levee Stability authorizes the Secretary of the Army to undertake the construction and implementation of various levee stability programs and projects to meet flood control, ecosystem restoration, water supply, water conveyance, and water quality objectives. The Bill authorizes expenditures of up to \$90 million dollars over a five year period to reconstruct levees to the PL 84-99 Standard, enhance the stability of levees with particular importance in the system, develop best management practices to control and reverse subsidence, develop an emergency plan, develop a risk management strategy, reuse dredged materials from the Delta and San Francisco Bay, and evaluate rehabilitation of Suisun Marsh Levees.

Funds for the Delta levee component of the CALFED program have not yet been authorized by Congress. This letter is to underscore the urgency of those appropriations and the implementation of the authorized tasks.

The vulnerability of the Delta levee system was highlighted this summer with the unanticipated breaching of the levee on Upper Jones Tract which resulted in immediate shut down of the State and federal water project pumps as the impact of the breach was evaluated. The State has stepped forward and has provided most of the funds required to repair the breach and pump out the island. Other critical resources threatened by the breach on Upper Jones Track include a State Highway (Highway 4), the Mokelumne Aqueducts that transport drinking water for millions of Bay area customers of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the AMTRAK train line.

This letter seeks your support for the authorized funds as soon as possible for expenditure in FY 05-06.

Sincerely,